

Listing of Claims

1. A textured hearing instrument shell.
2. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising an outer surface where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture.
3. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the texture is non-smooth.
4. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the texture comprises a non-reflective finish.
5. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the texture comprises a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced, or a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes.
6. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the texture comprises a predetermined or randomly generated pattern.
7. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, further comprising a faceplate comprising a textured outer surface.
8. A hearing instrument outer surface, where:
at least a portion of the hearing instrument is inserted in the ear of a user; and
at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture.

9. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8, where the texture is non-smooth.

10. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8, where the texture comprises a non-reflective finish.

11. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8, where the texture comprises a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced, or a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes.

12. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8, where the texture comprises a predetermined or randomly generated pattern.

13. A textured hearing instrument outer surface.

14. A hearing instrument where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user and comprising an outer surface, where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture made by a process comprising blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit, or applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface.

15. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising an outer surface, where:

the hearing instrument is fabricated as a series of layers; and

at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture made by a process comprising applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

16. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising an outer surface where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture made by a process comprising:

fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's ear; and
modifying the mold cavity to create a texture in the outer surface.

17. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising a shell comprising an outer surface where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture, where:

the texture comprises

a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or
a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or
a predetermined or randomly generated pattern; and

the texture is made by a process comprising

blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or
applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface; or
applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

18. A hearing instrument outer surface, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user and at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture, where:

the texture comprises

- a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or
- a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or
- a predetermined or randomly generated pattern; and

the texture is made by a process comprising

- blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or
- applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface; or
- applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

19. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising a shell comprising an outer surface where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture, where:

the texture comprises

- a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or
- a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or
- a predetermined or randomly generated pattern; and

the texture is made by a process comprising

- fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's ear; and
- modifying the mold cavity to create the texture in the outer surface.